

1-24-1997

1997 Founders Day

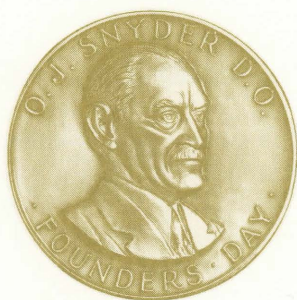
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Founders Day

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ASSEMBLY

JANUARY 24, 1997

Founders Day Assembly

The annual observance of Founders Day honors a man who "put the cause of osteopathic medicine above personal considerations." That man was Oscar John Snyder, BS, MS, DO, co-founder of the College and PCOM's first president, who remained with the College for 42 years as adviser and member of the board of trustees. He was instrumental in obtaining the Commonwealth's legal recognition of the College and the osteopathic profession through establishing the high standards of osteopathic medical education.

Program

Introductions

Kenneth J. Veit, DO, '76
Dean

Invocation and The Pledge of Allegiance

Emily Lichtman, '99
Student Council, First Vice President

Welcome and Introduction of the O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal Recipient

Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, '59
President and CEO

Address

Frieda O. Vickers, DO
Class of 1939

Benediction

Galen S. Young Sr., DO, '35
Chancellor

The O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal will be presented to Dr. Vickers at the Founders Day/Alumni Dinner Dance on January 25, 1997.

Frieda O. Vickers, DO
Class of 1939



Today, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine bestows its highest award, the O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal, to Frieda O. Vickers, DO, distinguished physician and loyal alumna.

A PCOM legend in the practice of osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM), Dr. Vickers exemplifies what it means to be a DO. OMM was the cornerstone of her 57-year general practice. "OMM has been wonderful to my patients," notes Dr. Vickers. "I've had patients who went to chiropractors for years and were still hurting, and one OMM treatment and they're better."

Fellow alumni line up at PCOM's annual St. Thomas CME for a treatment by Dr. Vickers. Patients who have moved as far as Wisconsin come back for her manipulations. Recently, classmate Harriet Parker, DO (nee Weisgerber) of Pittsburgh visited Dr. Vickers and received a treatment. Dr. Parker told her friend, "No one does a treatment like you."

Last October, her devoted following of patients was dealt a hard blow. Dr. Vickers, 87, retired from practice, albeit kicking and screaming. The realities of modern practice, with its high malpractice insurance rates, forced her to quit. In the Telford, Pa. office where she's practiced for 26 years, her white coat still rests on the chair and her stethoscope hangs from the door knob. "I miss practicing," she says. "My patients begged me not to retire."

Early interest in medicine

Born Frieda Oshever in Brooklyn, Dr. Vickers' parents emigrated from Russia for a better life in America. She and her five siblings were raised in a strict Orthodox Jewish household, she recalls. Dr. Vickers remembers a childhood fascination with medicine. "Whenever there was an accident in Brooklyn, I would run out to see what was going on," she says. "I wanted to see what the doctors were doing."

After graduating from Brooklyn College, she entered a homeopathic medical college in New York. She left after a year when tuition skyrocketed. She then headed to Philadelphia to attend the former Women's Medical College, an allopathic school. On the way there, from the trolley window, she saw Philadelphia College

of Osteopathy at 48th and Spruce Streets. "I thought to myself, homeopathic, osteopathic, they're all schools of medicine," recalls Dr. Vickers. So she hopped off the trolley, liked what she saw and enrolled at PCO on the spot.

She has fond memories of her medical school years. "PCOM was wonderful and I enjoyed every minute of it," she recalls. Dr. Vickers especially remembers obstetrics/gynecology faculty Lester Eisenberg, DO, '38 and the late Herman Kohn, DO, '27, both past O.J. Snyder award recipients. As a student and recent graduate, she delivered babies with them in poor Philadelphia neighborhoods.

Dr. Kohn was her biggest role model. "He was a great teacher," recalls Dr. Vickers. "He would say 'this is the way you do it; don't do it any other way.' He was delighted with the way I delivered babies." She says delivering more than 100 babies without any complications is her proudest accomplishment.

Dr. Vickers chose general practice because, she notes, "I wanted to do everything that any other doctor did." She set up a home office in West Philadelphia, where she practiced until 1970. She and her husband Jim then moved to Telford, Pa., where she practiced in an office attached to the house. After Jim retired from the Philadelphia Fire Department as administrative services director, he became his wife's accountant and receptionist. The couple has enjoyed a life filled with traveling, gardening and showing their champion Gordon setter at American Kennel Club shows.

During World War II, Dr. Vickers was a volunteer physician for the American Red Cross. She served as a physician for the Philadelphia School District for 12 years, and as a consulting physician at Merck, Sharp and Dohme in West Point, Pa. for 13 years. Dr. Vickers has served on the staff at the Hospitals of PCOM, then later at Graduate Health System - City Avenue Hospital, for 58 years. She is a life member of PCOM Alumni Association, Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association and American Osteopathic Association.

In 1992, the Vickers received the "Certificate of Honor" at Founders Day for their longstanding devotion to PCOM. A constant presence at the College, the Vickers have named several PCOM scholarships and awards.

PCOM takes great pride in honoring renowned physician Frieda O. Vickers, DO with this year's O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal.

Frieda O. Vickers, DO

Class of 1939, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Selected Curriculum Vitae

Professional Activities

Private practice in general medicine, Philadelphia, 1940-1970 and Telford, Pa., 1970-1996

Volunteer Advisory Physician, American Red Cross, 1942-1946

Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Instructor, PCOM, 1946-1948

School Physician, Philadelphia School District, 1966-1978

Consulting Physician, Merck, Sharp and Dohme, 1982-1995

Staff Physician, Hospitals of PCOM, then Graduate Health System-City Avenue Hospital, 1939 to present

Professional Memberships

Member, American Osteopathic Association, 1939 to present

Member, Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, 1939 to present

Life Member, PCOM Alumni Association

Honors

Received PCOM "Certificate of Honor" at 1992 Founders Day, along with her husband, Jim

Recipients of the O. J. Snyder Memorial Medal

The O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal, presented in memory of the co-founder of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, is awarded in recognition of leadership and service to the osteopathic profession and to the College.

- * 1953 David S.B. Pennock, MD, DO
- * 1954 Margaret H. Jones, DO
- * 1955 Chester D. Swope, DO
- * 1956 Russell C. McCaughan, DO
- * 1958 Phil R. Russell, DO
- * 1959 Ira W. Drew, DO
- * 1960 C. Paul Snyder, DO
- * 1961 James M. Eaton, DO
- * 1962 J. Ernest Leuzinger, DO
- * 1963 H. Walter Evans, DO
- * 1964 Paul T. Lloyd, DO
- * 1966 Angus G. Cathie, DO
- * 1967 Carlton Street, DO
- 1968 Edwin H. Cressman, DO
- * 1969 Edgar O. Holden, DO
- * 1970 Frederic H. Barth, BS, LLD (hon.)
- * 1971 Joseph F. Py, DO
- * 1972 George W. Northup, DO
- * 1973 William F. Daiber, DO
- * 1974 Herman Kohn, DO
- * 1975 William S. Spaeth, DO
- * 1976 Mortimer J. Sullivan, DO
- * 1977 A. Aline Swift, DO
- * 1978 Foster C. True, DO
- * 1979 Frank E. Gruber, DO
- * 1980 Leo C. Wagner, DO
- * 1981 R. MacFarlane Tilley, DO
- 1982 M. Carman Pettapiece, DO
- * 1983 George H. Guest, DO
- * 1984 Thomas M. Rowland Jr., BS, LLD (hon.), DSc (hon.)
- 1985 Galen S. Young Sr., DO
- 1986 David Heilig, DO
- * 1987 W. Kenneth Riland, DO
- 1988 Richard S. Koch, DO
- 1989 Ruth E. Purdy, DO
- 1990 Morton E. Terry, DO
- 1991 Arnold Gerber, DO
- 1992 Emanuel Fliegelman, DO
- 1993 Robert L. Meals, DO
- 1994 Fairman L. Denlinger, DO
- 1995 Lester Eisenberg, DO
- 1996 Albert F. D'Alonzo, DO
- 1997 Frieda O. Vickers, DO

* Deceased

